

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING
POST-EVENT SUMMARY REPORT

FROM: Maui County Office on Aging (John A. H. Tomoso)

TO: Moya Thompson, WHCoA

CC: Hawai'i State Executive Office on Aging (Pat Sasaki)

Name of Event: Listening Sessions on the Islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai

Date of Events: January 21, February 11, and February 18, 2005, respectively

Location of Events: Cameron Center, Wailuku, Maui; Home Pumehana, Kaunakakai, Molokai; Lanai Senior Center, Lanai City, Lanai; State of Hawaii.

Number of Persons Attending: 13, 12, 38, respectively.

Sponsoring Organization: Maui County Office on Aging

Contact Name: John A.H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW

Telephone Number: (808) 270-7755

Email: john.tomoso@co.maui.hi.us

Priority Issue #1: The need to reflect the County of Maui's unique needs in this year's White House Conference on Aging. Recognizing the importance of a grassroots approach, our office convened listening sessions to familiarize our seniors with the annotated agenda proposed for this year's conference.

Barriers: The timing of the process that has been established requires us to respond to this year's format in a somewhat creative manner. Receiving official designation for these sessions allowed us to bring together community voices that otherwise may have gone unheard this fall. Our geography, being the only tri-island county in the only island state in the nation, presents unique barriers and challenges for the Older Americans under our purview. These go beyond the normal difficulties of delivering services in a rural setting.

Proposed Solution: We have decided to expand on the identification of priorities as accomplished in these preliminary sessions. This summer we will be participating in a State wide solutions forum, scheduled for 06/30/05 in Honolulu, in which representatives from these communities, as well as communities from the other local jurisdictions of Hawai'i, will gather to propose solutions to the individual priority issues as identified. We are encouraged to see that you have designated this event as an official White House Conference on Aging "gathering". We look forward to addressing the top three priority areas thus far identified:

Strengthening Social Security, Improving Access to Affordable, Defined Health Benefits through Medicare/Medicaid, and Options to Provide Maximum Independence and Non-Institutional Care, in addition to the other priority issues championed by advocates perhaps smaller in numbers but very passionate. We look forward to the continued dialogue with the Policy Committee of the WHCOA.